

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, June 9, 2015

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:20 pm on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Maureen Kelly, Marilyn Murray and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz (left 7:29). Absent George Crimmins, Matt Palmer, Dot Stillinger and Don Travisano.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2015 and January 2016 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2015 AND JANUARY 2016

Every first or second Tuesday February through December 2015 and the second Tuesday in January 2016. Dates are: February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 9, July NO MEETING, August 4, September 8, October 6, November 10, December 1 in 2015 and January 12, 2016.

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the May 5, 2015 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:27-7:29) S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

Sustainable Jersey Action Re-certification submitted June 5, 2015 with 180 points for bronze status; 150 points are required.

Congratulations to Steve Carroll on this exceptional accomplishment.

Giralda Ribbon cutting, Saturday, June 6 was will attended.

TREE PROJECT

Frank Esposito spoke with Joe Dunn from Morris County Soils Conservation District regarding the remaining trees stored there. At this point, there is no interest in planting the remaining trees, furthermore the trees are too large to transport. The township was able to use a few trees at the schools. The remaining trees will become the property of the Morris County Soils Conservation District. The Commission agreed that this tree project was very successful.

Frank Esposito motioned to turned over the remaining trees to the Morris County Soil Conservation District and Maureen Kelly 2nd with all in favor. CLOSED

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 35 Susan Drive, Block 20, Lot 17. Application to Board of Adjustment for steep slopes variances. Erosion and storm water control problems with the two homes recently built on Susan Drive; downslope neighbors' problems with erosion and excess water. Site visit was Saturday, May 2. Memo to BOA was approved and sent. CLOSED.
- Golden River Homes, LLC, 11 Sunset Drive, Block 61 lot 16. Complete 6/13/2014. Application to the Board of Adjustment for steep slope variance. The lot is vacant and slopes steeply down toward Fairmount Ave. Memo sent to Board of Adjustment on August 20, 2014 was approved by CTEC. Application was continued before the Board of Adjustment.
- 35 Rose Terrace, Block 93 Lot 5. Minor Subdivision w/variances. Proposing to subdivide a half-acre lot in the R-3 (half-acre) zone into two quarter-acre lots . Site visit was on Saturday April 4. Memo from EC was presented to Planning Board. Application was approved. CLOSED.
- Verizon Wireless, Block 48.14 Lot 110 (near the site of the old gazebo on Southern Blvd.) 3-17-15. Application for LOI. They want to put communication equipment on the PSE&G tower. That is actually a sensitive area containing wetlands and a brisk storm water tributary to Black Brook so a comment letter to the NJDEP is in order. Letter to DEP was approved and sent. CLOSED.

REPORTS

- Pilgrim Pipeline citizen opposition. G. Crimmins.
- Planning Board D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison.
- Township Committee and Board of Health liaison K. Swartz. The Board of Health has been following a pending Senate bill regarding vaccination exemptions based on religious beliefs. This bill would require a letter by a licensed physician and additional documentation.
- Open Space Committee walked the Averett property on Sunday, May 31. OSC working on trail layout to present to the township committee. Marilyn Murray, Open Space liaison.
- Communications Committee - Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito who will work with Township Web administrator Tom Salvas.
- Recycling Committee F. Esposito, Chair, and M. Murray.
At this time it appears that there is no interest in weekly recycling pickup.
Frank Esposito will contact the MUA regarding covering/protection to paper recycling at Tanglewood.
- Community Education and Outreach Committee. F. Esposito, Chair.
Spoke regarding the Rocket composter located at the high school, installed in 2011. This is an on-site food composting. Commission members are curious of its continued use. They will revisit this in the fall.
- EC website has been updated with new reports and photos. F. Esposito.
Commission spoke about the Nitrate level in discharge from Tanglewood plant into Passaic River with regards to the Kelm report. At this time there no action for CTEC to take.
- Conservation Easement Subcommittee - D. Stillinger and M. Murray.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- What is the Township position on keeping bees? Bees are becoming stressed. Note that the Morris County Mosquito Commission routinely sprays Bti from airplanes on many waterbodies in the county. And this just in - Roundup is once again considered a carcinogen by the FDA.
- Updated Environmental Commission enabling ordinance Review the draft of the proposed updated ordinance. The current Township environmental commission ordinance was adopted in 1968 immediately after the State of New Jersey first passed a law enabling environmental commissions. The State subsequently refined its statute. The proposed updated Chatham Township ordinance conforms to current State law, includes the ANJEC recommendation to remove the provision that ECs can acquire property, includes a couple of changes found in the ordinances of other towns, and alters language to be gender-neutral ("he" to "he or she"). G. Crimmins.
- Wells in the Township - Online information from the NJDEP.
- New and very good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer, not Chrome.
- Very good Morris County mapping utility at <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>, hit Map or Advanced Data Search. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.
- Discussion about requiring subdivision and site plans and related documents to be submitted in pdf format. If that happens CTEC should be on the list to receive all pdf plans and documents. Currently the township requires applicants to submit 25 paper copies of every sheet and document, which amounts to a large stack of paper and is costly for the applicant.
- Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area? Trails on the Giralda property?
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of four Morris County towns that assumes the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.
- Note final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Option B was chosen. Hunting, including for turkeys, will be allowed, but no horses (riding, not hunting). Management areas will be consolidated into larger but fewer parcels. Public meetings were held in June. Read the Plan at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Swamp/what_we_do/conservation.html.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January, 2015. Letter to PSE&G urging denial of permission to use their ROW for the proposed Pilgrim pipeline.
- February, 2015. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning The Farm at Green Village suggesting conditions on the approval to better protect wetlands.
- March 2015. Memo to NJDEP urging oversight of JCP&L contractors doing vegetation removal in ROWs. Letter of support to NJDEP in support of GSWA's application for a 319 grant for storm water remediation at Seaton Hackney.
- April, 2015. Memo to Planning Board noting more than double the existing impervious cover proposed for a subdivision on Rose Terrace.
- May, 2015. Letter to NJDEP urging caution in granting permits to Verizon for communication equipment at the base of a PSE&G tower on Southern Boulevard because of nearby wetlands. Memo to Board of Adjustment suggesting a conservation easement on steep slopes on a Susan Drive parcel.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 8:19

Carolyn Scannelli